

Masthead Logo

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Work without Red

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WORK WITHOUT RED

(For Miyoko Ito)

This one is called 1948.
It is abstract, although we have been told
it is about a sink, or the memory
of a sink, that was in a room in Massachusetts,
among other things, in 1948.

But clearly it is also about paint.
Blue of water beyond the sink. Green
seen as blue from the hull of a boat.
The boat is illusion and not about paint:
diaphanous layers, the masterful technique

it took to put the sun in under
the earth
surfaced hull of the boat (base of the sink)
so that the red sphere, as we see it there,
is obscure of color, pure and inert.

VOYEUR

She has seen someone in a pick-up truck
Do something extreme.
Meadowlarks perish in reams of black ink
While she submits—is this a gloss?—
Her thick dark hair to culture's imperatives.
Not a bed near the figure, no shadow.
A bonfire and a flute, there is no doubt
That someone has done something extreme.
O Money wasn't in question!
There are wings in between.